

The Courage to Encourage

Connecting to the Topic

What affects our ability to encourage?

- Thinking we have to give answers.
- Thinking we have none of the answers.

Connecting With God

The Bible talks about encouragement in many places. Here are just a few verses to consider; take turns reading these aloud in your group.

“Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11)

“When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.” (Romans 1:12)

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29)

“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Discuss with your group:

- Which of these verses sort of “jumps out” to you, and why?

- Why do you think encouraging one another is such an important part of living the life God desires for us?

- How can these verses help you grow in putting the “en” (the action) into *encourage*—both in giving and receiving encouragement?

